What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #233:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello coin enthusiasts!

We are knee deep in auction season with sometimes up to 4-5 auctions a day. I just returned on Tuesday from a very busy work/leisure trip to England and Germany. While there I was able to view the upcoming NAC sales as well as the recently released Künker ancients sale. There is a lot of wonderful material days away from being auctioned. I'll try to give a good overview of all the most important sales.

Naville Numismatics 98 (12 October)
Naville will conduct its 98th sale on October 12. This sale is an exception to the typical Naville sales as there are only Greek coins being offered (with a smattering of Celtic and a Republican here and there). The coins are all part of The Collection of Greek Coins of a Man in Love with Art - Part VIII. Most now know that the collection comes from the deceased Sheikh of Qatar, Sa'ud Al Thani (1966-2014). While these coins were not considered fine enough for the glitchy NAC floor sales in Zurich, they are still worth consideration. There are 889 lots in the sale, all with pedigrees going back to at least late 2014 upon his death. Many are from 2011 when he was at the height of his collecting years. There is also an accompanying virtual catalog for those interested. The starting prices are extremely budget conscience so I do expect hammers to be considerably higher. There are numerous Greek bronzes being offered along with some decently priced gold staters of Philip II (lot 298) and Alexander III (lot 307). Lot 393 is a wonderfully struck gold stater of L. Junius Brutus from Koson and lot 394 a silver drachm of Koson struck in the 1st century. Lots 417-433 are some pretty and reasonably priced drachms from Larissa. A strong selection of Boeotian coins (fractions and staters) are also being offered. Lot 539 is an off-center but early Athens tetradrachm but at an extremely low starting price. Lot 544 is the more elusive Athens drachm in great condition and also for a low starting price. There are an abundance of early Aegina staters, some with reasonably good strikes. Lot 608 is a lovely stater from the 90th Olympiad, Hera mint. Probably the biggest bargains can be found towards the end of the catalog with several nice Octodrachms from the Ptolemies. Lot 886, is an Octodrachm of Ptolemy V Epiphanos. It is ex-jewelry but the price is nonetheless extremely low.

Naville is offering hassle-free shipping for larger orders over 1000 GBP by shipping to the NAC USA offices in Chicago (yours truly). This will be a game changer for those that are concerned about the tariffs that still get charged mistakenly despite the current exemption status of ancient coins.

I will be participating in this auction so please get in touch soon if you need auction help.

Gorny & Mosch 314 (14-15 October)
G&M has their annual Fall auction cycle next week with 988 lots. The strongest area represented is Greek with 502 lots. I would generally try to attend G&M auctions in the past as typically their sales coincide with the Numismata Coin Fair in Munich. With the proliferation of auctions it has become more difficult to squeeze all the viewing into one short trip. Having said that, I hope to attend another G&M sale as they at their offices and nice to attend. The sale kicks off with some pleasant large denomination Celtic coins from the Donau region (eastern Europe encompassing Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, and Romania). Coins like lots 22-26 remain one of my favorite types with stylistic imagery reminiscent of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. These types were sometimes struck 100 years or more after his death attesting to the strength and endurance of his memory. Lot 42, a plate coin in the primary reference, is an early gold coin from Populonia in Etruria. When the early Romans were primarily casting crude bronze coins, this small gold example is a wonderful exception. Another charming example of earlier bronzes from the area is lot 72, a sextans from Lucania struck around c. 193-150 BC. The coin comes from the Apollo to Apollo collection (a self published book from the collector that contains many plate coins that have been auctioned recently). Lot 85 is an opportunity to scoop up a sharply struck and complete tetradrachm of Akragas. This coin is estimated at 7,000 Euros and has been recently going for five figures in many auctions across Europe. Lot 98 is a gorgeous example of Kamarina didrachm from an early Leu auction from 1988. Coins from this area are seldom found in such nice condition. Lot 101 is another nice opportunity coin from Katania with a fantastic Apollo reverse. This has a pedigree back to a 1994 M&M auction. Lot 119 is an opportunity coin, a Dekadrachm from Syracuse. If the bidding stays reasonable it could be a nice purchase. Lot 144, the cover coin from this catalog, is an outstanding tetradrachm from Abdera which is wonderfully struck and perfectly centered. Lot 182, a tetradrachm from Skione, is a very rare type that has made some recent appearances on the auction market causing it to be attainable at far less in the current auction scene. Lot 364 is a fantastic electrum Hekte from Phokaia on the Ionian coast with a left facing head of Zeus. Lot 553 in the Roman Imperatorial coins is an opportunity to bid on the only large silver coin representing Marc Antony and Cleopatra VII. This type from struck in Antioch in the Levant region is a difficult coin to acquire for most. There are an abundance of nicely struck Roman bronzes, for example, lot 571, a AE drachm of Antinous, the lover of Hadrian or the next lot, 572, a Zodiac coin from Antoninus Pius. Lot 732 is a denarius of the betrayer to Julius Caesar, Labienus. There is a test cut on the cheek and it has some minor wear but otherwise is a rare coin to acquire.

There are a lot of common coins in good condition in this sale so I urge you to check it out. I will be participating in this auction so if you want representation please let us know soon.

Kölner Münzkabinett 124 (17 October)
I have started to buy more regularly in the last few years in the auctions from Kölner Münzkabinett. What sparked my interest was a lovely Alexandrian coin collection offered. I was able to acquire my own heavy Ptolemaic bronze at 108 grams just last year! I paid dearly for it but it was well worth the battle. The 124th sale with 683 lots again contains Alexandrian coinage from the collection of Dr. Victor Wishnevsky. Additionally there are Greek coins from the collection of Burkhard Traeger. The Traeger consignment has an abundance of Arcadian League coins for those interested in that area. For the Wishnevsky portion, estimates are low and pedigrees go back decades on some. For those that followed and bid strongly in the early Naville auctions that featured hundreds of Dattari plate coins, this will be a reminder of that. Prices have dropped considerably now since there was a deluge of material on the market. The Roman empire has some nice opportunities with pedigreed coins going back decades. Please get in touch should you need auction representation help.

Leu Numismatik 19 (18 October)
Leu will host their 19th live auction in Zurich with a fine selection of 360 lots. There are three named collections within this group, K. Zimmermann, Dr. G. Olf and R. Jackson. A majority of the coins (207) are from the Roman Imperial time period. Lot 23, the cover coin and arguably one of the most lovely, is a tetradrachm from Syracuse struck during the Second Democracy (c. 466-405 BC). It comes from an early Hess-Leu auction from 1957

beautifully struck distaters of Alexander, a large gold denomination that eludes most collectors. Lot 84 is a rare stater from Cyprus with an unusually large and full frontal rendition of the lion's head biting into the stag. Lot 94 is a contemporary Philistian take on the Athenian dekadrachm showing a forward facing owl with the wings fully opened. A much tinier version of the dekadrachm of course at a mere 0.57g compared to the actual Athenian type at about 40+ grams. The obverse has a male head versus the typical stately Athena. Lot 110 is a really wonderful Roman provincial bronze from the city of Deultum in Thrace. It was struck under Gordian III and has a beautiful mythical reverse with two gods reclining watching a ship in the distance. Lot 127 is a great Republican type in excellent condition struck under L. Cornelius Lentulus and C. Claudius Marcellus, during the conflict with Pompey in c. 49 BC. Many of the Roman Imperial coins, all metal types, are in EF to mint state condition. There are some older pedigrees as well, like lot 146, a denarius of Claudius and Agrippina Junior with a pedigree back to the 1940's. Lot 156 is a great example of Otho, difficult to find with a sharply struck head of hair. This lot also comes from the John Whitney Walter collection. A well to do, but now deceased collector that also happened to be the first cousin of our current U.S. president. Lot 207, a well pedigreed aureus of Pertinax, was most recently in a 2021 Leu sale but actually has a pedigree back to an early Sotheby's sale of 1906. A rare opportunity to buy a scarce ruler with a long collector history. Lot 258 is a rather enigmatic "off metal" example of an aureus struck in silver. There is a long write-up for those that are interested. At the end of the catalog are five gold coins of Theodora, a relatively difficult empress to affordably find. Finally, lot 358 is a sharply struck gold tetarteron of Isaac I Comnenus.

As with all the Leu sales, we will be participating by phone versus online which has a fee applied. Please get in touch if you need auction representation.

Upcoming November sales
There are numerous high end, floor auctions happening in November. In order to not overload this newsletter I will touch on them next friday (I promise!!) in my next newsletter. For those wanting to keep their calendars up to date:

Peus auction 443 on November 4-5, NAC 158-162 on November 5-6 (this includes two sales that are in cooperation with David Guest Numismatics) **and the Künker fall sales** (including the ancients which is catalog 433) **on November 10-12**

There is no rest for the weary!

Coin of the week

Thrace, Ainos. c. 412/1-410/9 BC
AR Tetradrachm, 16.49g (22mm, 6h).
Head of Hermes r. wearing petasos with pelleted rim / AINI Goat r.; caduceus.

Pedigree: Ex NGSA 14, 15-16 Nov 2022, lot 111; Triton XXII, 2019, lot 162; Gorny & Msoch 228, 2015, lot 49; privately purchased from Baldwin's 2015

References: May 268 (A165/P177); AMNG 228, pl. 4, 21

Grade: Beautifully toned with high relief and good strike. Mint State

Price: $25,500

gk1896

Buy Coin

A truly ancient city, Ainos is attested to by written sources as having been founded in the 7th century BC and having begun issuing struck coinage in the 470′s BC. Issued between c. 412/1 and 410/9 BC, this particular tetradrachm weighs 16.49g and is almost exactly equal to three Persian sigloi. This was due to the fact that during this, the second major issuance of first phase coinage by the city of Ainos (which started c. 435 BC), the local moneyers initially used the Persic weight standard. This standard interestingly was adapted after the Persians withdrew from the city in 478 BC.

As the patron deity of Ainos, it is no surprise that Hermes Perpheraios ("the wanderer") appears on the obverse of this coin. While an artistic antecedent to the better known 3/4 facing portrait type issued roughly 15-25 years later, this specific portrait of the god is particularly expressive and a fine demonstration of the die engraver′s skill.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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